

## NEW INFORMATION ON **WEB** PAGE

If you open up the Planning Department's webpage ([www.ci.lincoln.ne.us](http://www.ci.lincoln.ne.us)), you will notice that the links to our on-line information have been reformatted. Included on this reformatted page under the title of "Studies Under way or Planned" is a link called "Upcoming Meetings." If you click on that link, you will find a table that lists all the Department's major studies that are under way or expected to begin soon, along with dates for upcoming public meetings for some of those studies. If you click on the date, you will get more information about the meeting purpose, time and location. If you click on the individual study names, you will find a description of the study purpose, scope, process, estimated time line and contact person in our Department. We hope this will keep you better informed.

## ACREAGE POLICIES

Planning staff hosted an Open House in November for interested citizens on the three acreage studies that were completed as directed by the Comprehensive Plan. It was well attended, and we received a wide-range of comments. Farmers appreciated the fact that we waited until after the harvest to hold this meeting. On December 1, we reported the results of the Open House to the City Council and County Board and discussed our fur-

ther efforts to refine the studies. The Council and Board authorized staff to take the preliminary recommendations on "build-through" and rural cluster developments to the next level of detail, for presentation at a Super Commons meeting with the Council, Board and Planning Commission in early spring. For more information, see the Department's webpage or contact Mike DeKalb in our office at [mdekalb@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:mdekalb@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-6370.

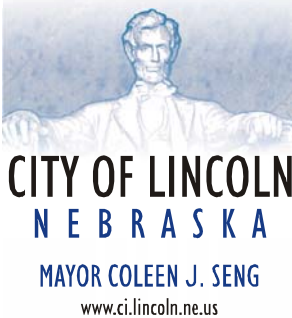
## CIP

Every year at this time, the Planning Department requests that City Departments prepare their proposed program of capital improvements for the next six years. We work with the Finance Department to package these proposals into an overall program that is reviewed and refined by the Mayor, then submitted to the Planning Commission in May and the City Council in June. This year, for the first time, we are planning an Open House on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) early next year -- probably as a prelude to the Mayor's next Town Hall meeting.

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## *Streamlining Committee*

Last month, the Mayor convened an advisory committee for a meeting to study how to eliminate unnecessary time and aggravation in the development permitting process. The group split into three subcommittees: zoning and process, subdivision and engineering, and building permits. These subcommittees will develop specific suggestions for streamlining over the next two months, and then the committee as a whole will reassemble to review the suggestions. The final recommendations are expected to be completed by March. For more information, contact Darl Naumann of the Mayor's Office at [dnaumann@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:dnaumann@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-7514.



# Downtown Master Plan

Downtown Lincoln has changed dramatically since the City's last Downtown Master Plan was adopted back in the 1970s. Since that time, a wide range of very effective project planning has taken place. Numerous good projects have been implemented, and our Downtown has remained healthier than most mid-size cities. But there is general agreement that an up-to-date, overall guide for continued growth and vitality of "everyone's neighborhood" is needed.



The Planning Department is being joined by the Downtown Lincoln Association (DLA) to fund the preparation of a new master plan for Downtown. With assistance from the City Urban Development Department and DLA, the Planning Department has sent out Requests for Proposals (RFP's) to consultant firms who specialize in working with communities to prepare plans like this, and hope to select a team and get the study under way by March 2004. They will rely on other studies that are recently completed or under way, such as Antelope Valley and the Chamber-directed study on the community's convention and event facility needs. The Mayor will appoint a citizen advisory committee composed of leaders in Downtown and others to oversee the development of the new master plan. For questions about this study, contact Kent Morgan at [kmorgan@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:kmorgan@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or call 441-7491.

## Comprehensive Plan Review

It's time again to start the annual review of the Comprehensive Plan. Invitations are being sent to various groups and individuals to submit proposals to amend the text or maps in the adopted plan. Last year, we took 20 proposals through the Planning Commission and elected boards, and 14 proposals were adopted as amendments to the Plan. This year, a fee will be charged to accept and process a proposed amendment, unless it comes from an elected board or official. If you want to submit a proposed amendment, or want more information on this process, contact Steve Henrichsen at [shenrichsen@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:shenrichsen@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-6374 or Duncan Ross at [dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-7603.



### CIP . . . (continued)

The purpose of the CIP Open House is to acquaint interested citizens with the improvements the City is planning and to provide an opportunity for comments on your priorities. The various City departments as well as the Mayor and City Council will then be able to take those comments into consideration as the proposed new program is assembled and reviewed later in the year. For more information, contact Duncan Ross at [dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:dross@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-7603.

## MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

With the help of the consultant firm of SRF and several other City Departments, the Planning Department is looking at how to make it easier to get people around Lincoln by means other than the automobile. Since beginning work in August 2003, the study process has resulted in a review of the City's transportation system in comparison to our peer cities and the completion of a telephone survey on community attitudes and opinions. The Mayor's 16-member Multi-Modal Transportation Task Force, which is overseeing this study, reviewed the results of the telephone survey and heard a presentation on Lincoln's transportation history at its December 16 meeting. The consultant firm is currently preparing three "alternative futures" for the steps Lincoln might take to make walking, bicycling and public transit more convenient, and what that would mean in terms of the look of the community and funding implications. These alternatives should be ready to present to the Task Force at its January 13, 2004 meeting. For more information, see the Department's webpage for the study or contact David Cary at [dcary@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:dcary@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-6364 or Kent Morgan at [kmorgan@ci.lincoln.ne.us](mailto:kmorgan@ci.lincoln.ne.us) or at 441-7491.



Marvin Krout, Planning Director ♦ Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department  
555 South 10th Street, Suite 213 ♦ Lincoln, NE 68508 ♦ 402-441-7491